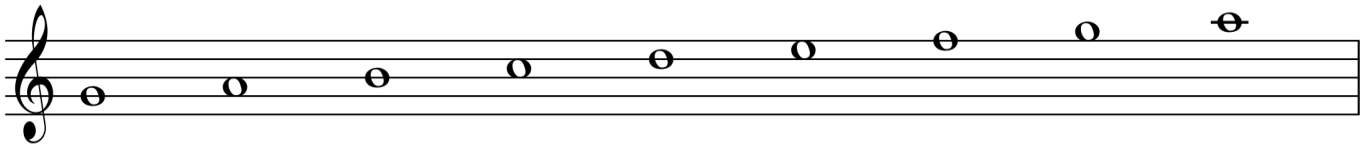


SCQF Level 2 Chanter – Theory

The Bagpipe Scale



Low G. Low A. B. C. D. E. F. High G. High A

- The bagpipe scale is the 9 notes that can be played on the bagpipes.
- The word Scale comes from the latin word “Scala” meaning ladder.
- The notes are written on a Staff or Stave which is 5 horizontal lines across the page which is like a ladder.
- Notes can be placed on the lines or in the spaces between the lines.
- The notes are named using letters of the alphabet A, B, C, D, E, F and G. After we reach G we go back to A again and repeat.
- Because the bagpipes have 2 A’s and 2 G’s we call the lower ones Low G and Low A, and the Higher ones High G and High A.

How to identify the notes

A quick and easy method for identifying the notes is to use one of 2 phrases depending on whether it is a line note or a space note.

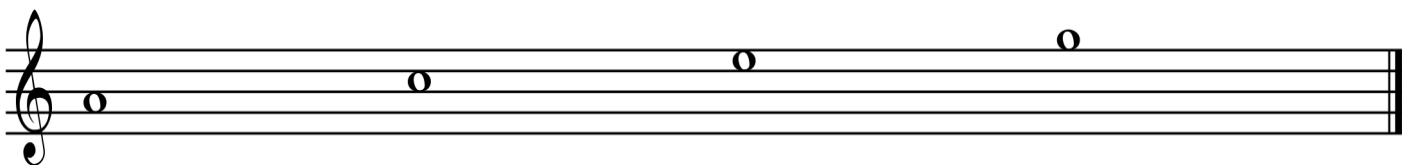
The Line notes



G. B. D. F A

Good Bagpipes Don't Fall Apart

The Space Notes

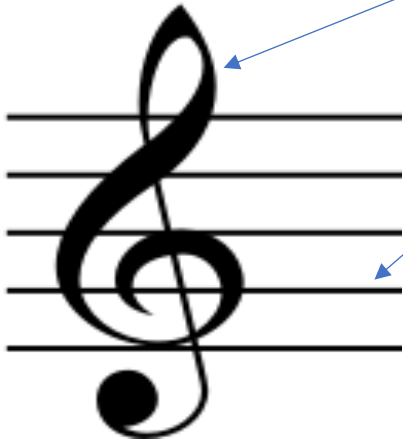


A. C. E. G

All Cows Eat Grass

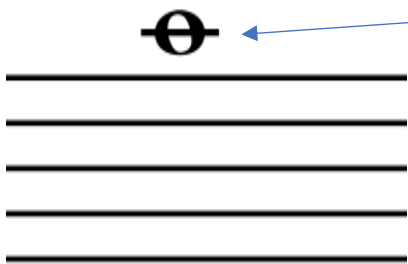
Important - We start counting **up** from the **second** line or space.

The Treble Clef



- The symbol at the left-hand side of the staff is called the treble Clef.
- The word clef comes from the French word for Key
- It is also called the G Clef and as you can see it wraps itself around the G line (second line up) and the symbol itself looks a very fancy letter G
- The treble clef is used for higher sounding instruments like the bagpipes.

The Leger Line



- If we look at the High A we can see that it sits beyond the range of the 5 line staff so an extra little line has been added for the High A. This is called a **Leger Line**
- Leger lines are used in music to extend the range of the staff beyond the 5 lines and 4 spaces.

What we've covered so far is to do with the **Pitch** of Notes and how Pitch is represented in music.

Pitch is defined as the height or depth of sound – how high or low it is.

So A, B, C, D, E, F and G are all Pitch names.

Note Duration

- So, a note can be high or low but it can also be long or short.
- The length of a note is called its duration.
- To understand how note duration is represented in written music we need to learn the 6 different note durations and how they relate to each other from the Table of Relative Note Values below.

THE SEMIBREVE
(Whole Note)



Is equal to

Two Minims
(Half note)



Or

Four Crotchets
(Quarter note)



Or

Eight Quavers
(Eighth Notes)



Or

Sixteen Semiquavers
(Sixteenth Notes)

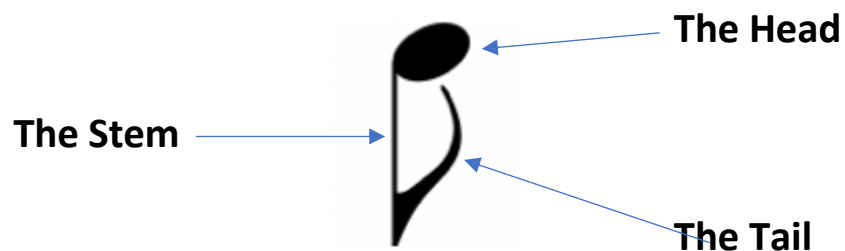


Or

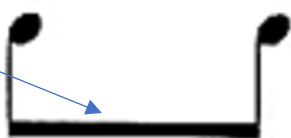
Thirty-Two Demi-Semi Quavers
(Thirty second note)



Naming the parts of a note



When you have 2 notes with tails together in the same beat the tails are joined together to create a **beam**.

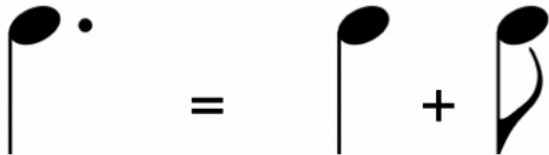


Dotted notes

Dotting a note will increase the length of that note to one and a half times its original value.

For Example:

Dotting a Crotchet makes it equal to a Crotchet plus a Quaver.



Dotting a Quaver makes it equal to a Quaver plus a Semi Quaver.



And so on.....

Adding a Tail

Adding a tail to a note will cut its length in half.

For example: adding a tail to a Crotchet turns it into a Quaver which is half its length.



Adding another tail to a Quaver turns it into a Semi-Quaver which is half its length

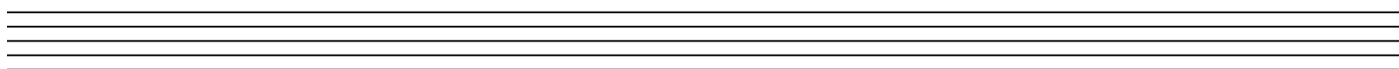
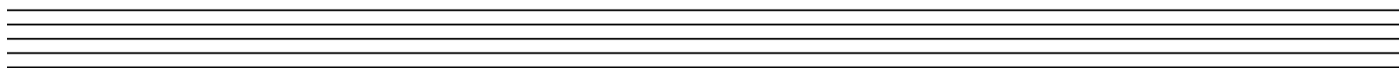


And so on.....

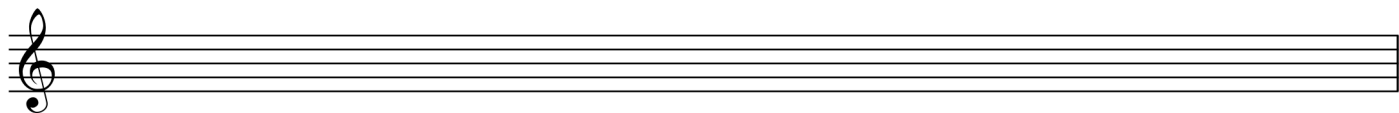
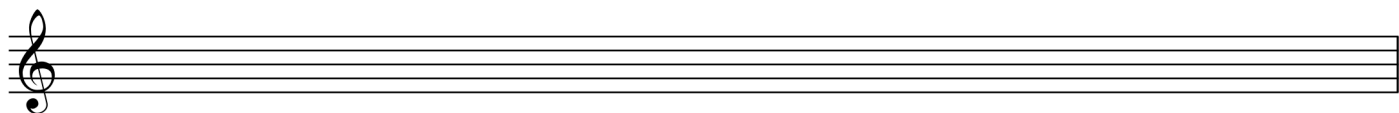
Laying out a Stave.

Ok so the next thing you need to be able to do for this exam is to lay out the stave – so get your pencils and rulers at the ready!

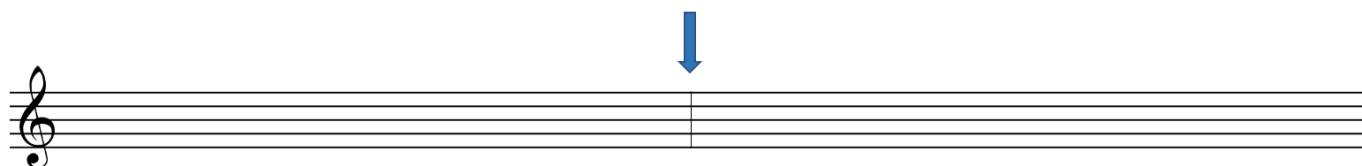
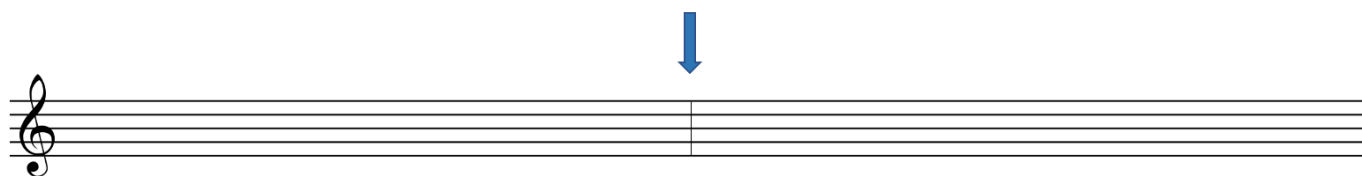
- Draw out the stave – 5 horizontal lines across the page – tip – Use a ruler and space the lines out equally (Approx 2.5mm apart). Do this again below as most tunes commonly have 2 lines per part, as shown below.



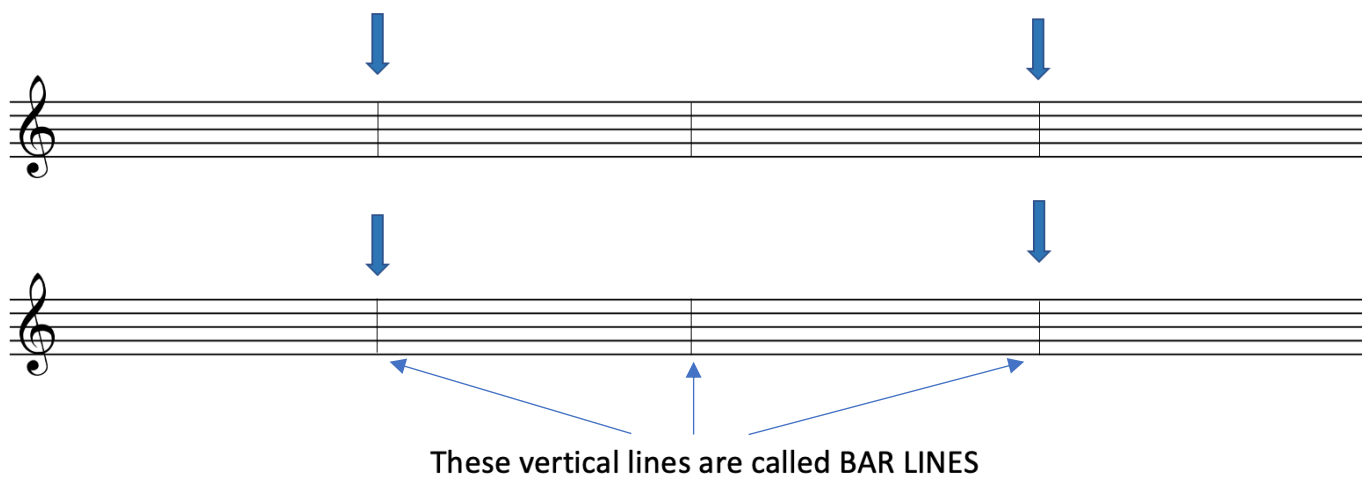
- Draw the treble clef sign at the beginning of each Stave



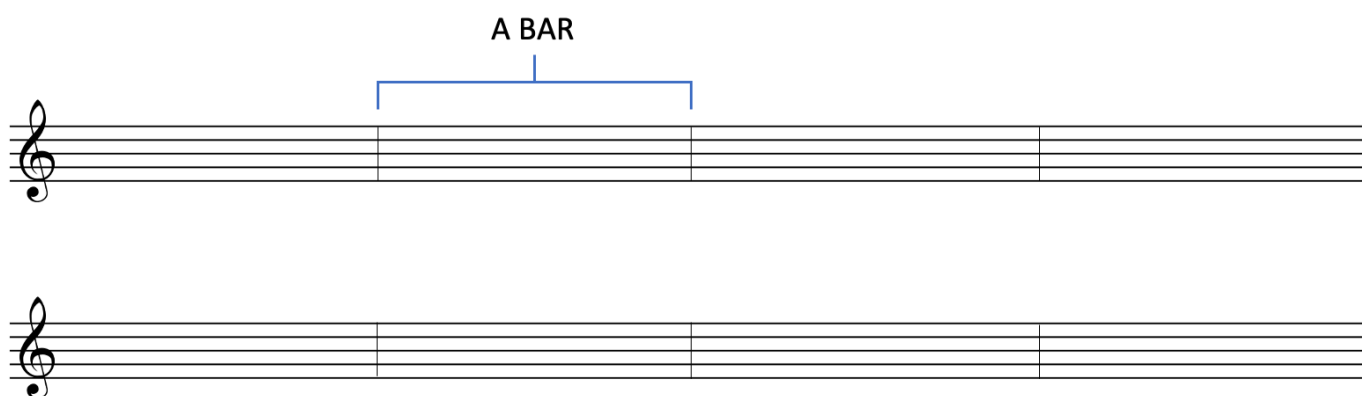
- Watch the video to see how it's done and practice it -
- As each line of music is commonly divided into 4 bars we will start by dividing each line in half with one bar-line



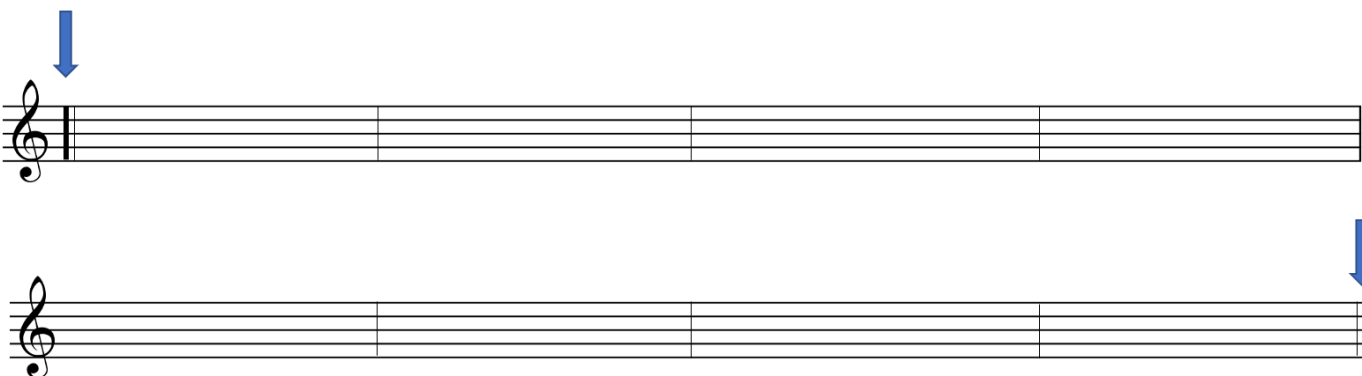
- Then we will sub-divide each half into quarters



- Bar Lines divide the music up into bars.

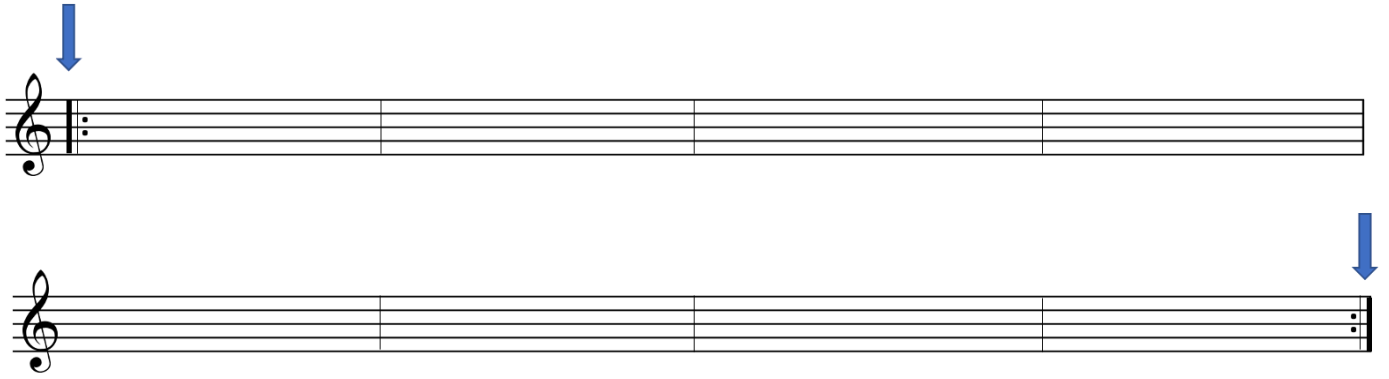


- A **Bar** is defined as the **measured** contents between 2 bar-lines
- Tunes are also divided into parts. Typically a part is 8 bars long although in some cases it can be 4. The beginning and end of a part is shown using the double bar-line. This example shows a part of 8 bars.



- The double bar-line is a thick line on the outside and a normal bar-line on the inside as shown.

- Where a part is to be repeated two dots are placed inside the double bar-line in the middle two spaces



The final aspect in the theory exam is to copy out 4 bars of music given to you in the exam paper.

Tips

- Use a sharp pencil so mistakes can be rubbed out
- Be neat so your work is clear – use a ruler to draw in stems and beams
- Start by copying the melody notes taking care to leave enough room between them for the embellishments
- Add any dots or cuts
- Then add in the embellishments
- Lastly check your work note by note against the original